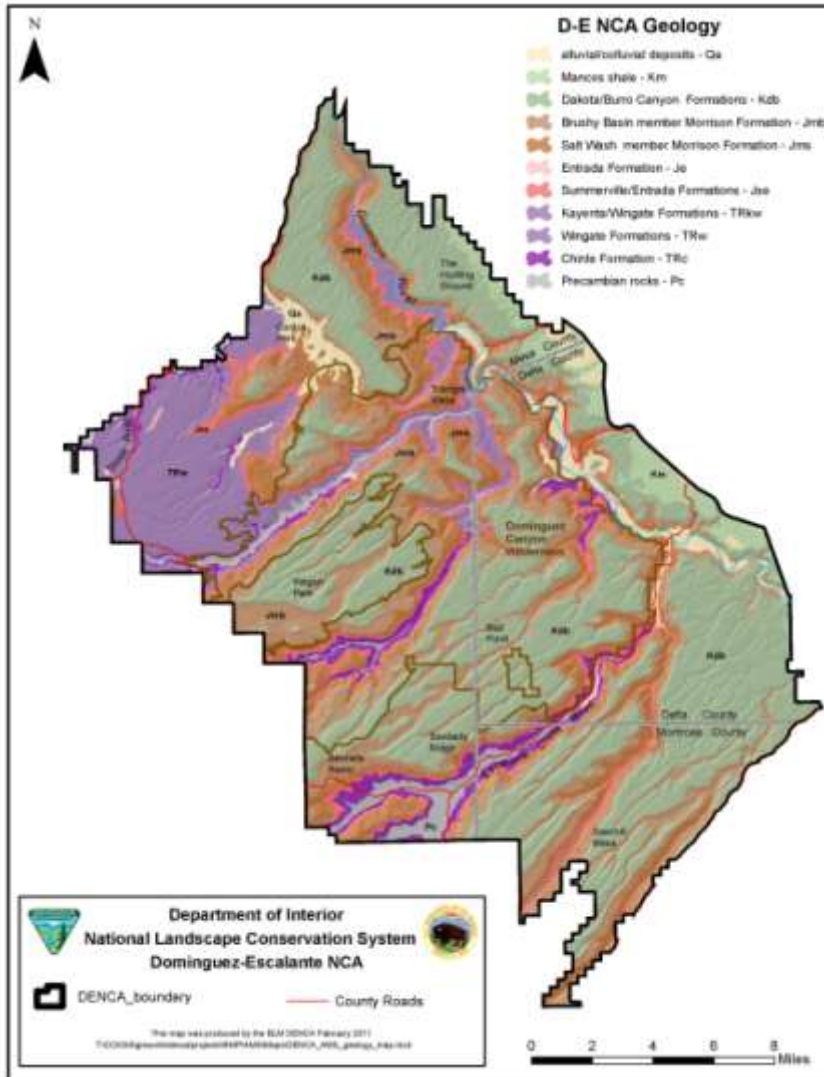


THE HUNTING GROUNDS

Zone 1

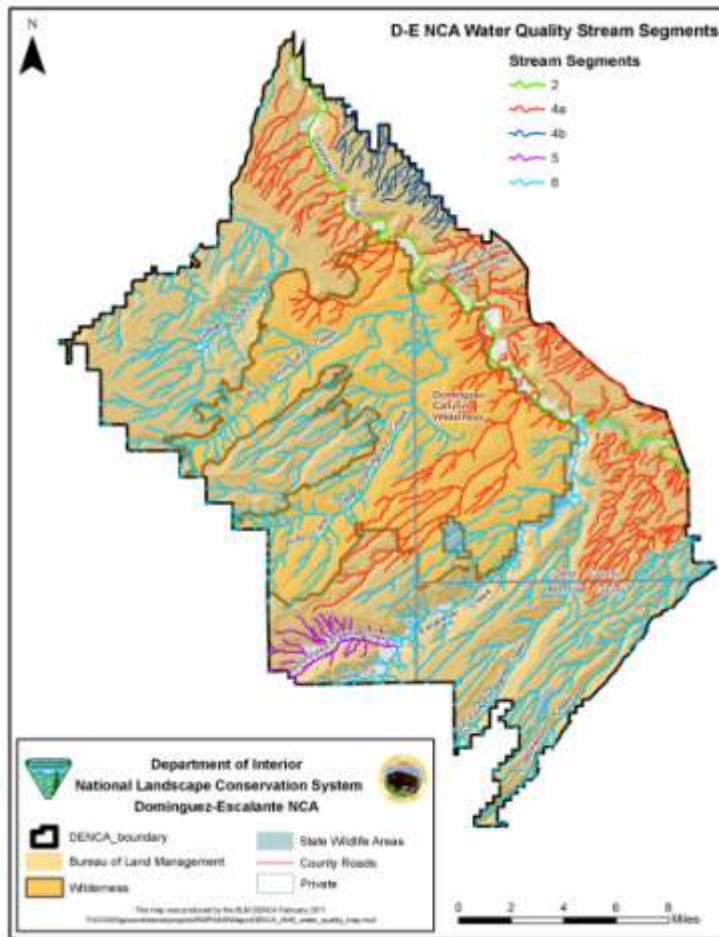
From the ground up,...

Geology and Paleontology



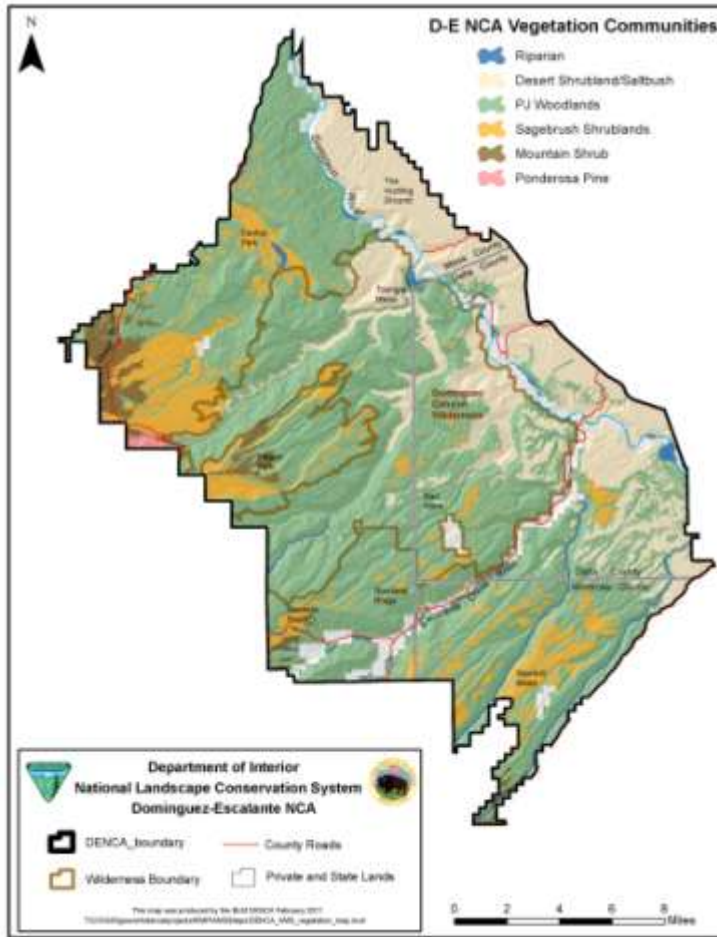
- Predominantly Dakota/Burns Canyon and Mancos Shale
- Smaller areas made of Brushy Basin and Salt Wash, members of the Morrison Formation. (Paleontologists believe there are moderate opportunities to find **fossils** in the area).
- Mancos Shale is a marine deposition evaporate, which often contains excessive levels of **selenium** and a variety of dissolvable **salts**. Both components of Mancos Shale can degrade water quality when disturbed and/or irrigated.

Water, water not everywhere



- No perennial streams exist in Zone 1
- Large number of ephemeral streams flow east-to-west away from the Grand Mesa and into the Gunnison River
- Water quality is characterized as **impaired** for selenium in those creeks that flow directly into the Gunnison River through Zone 1, however, this water quality impairment is not a result of BLM management.
- Zone 1 has a scattering of springs and seeps, all of which have been developed for livestock grazing.

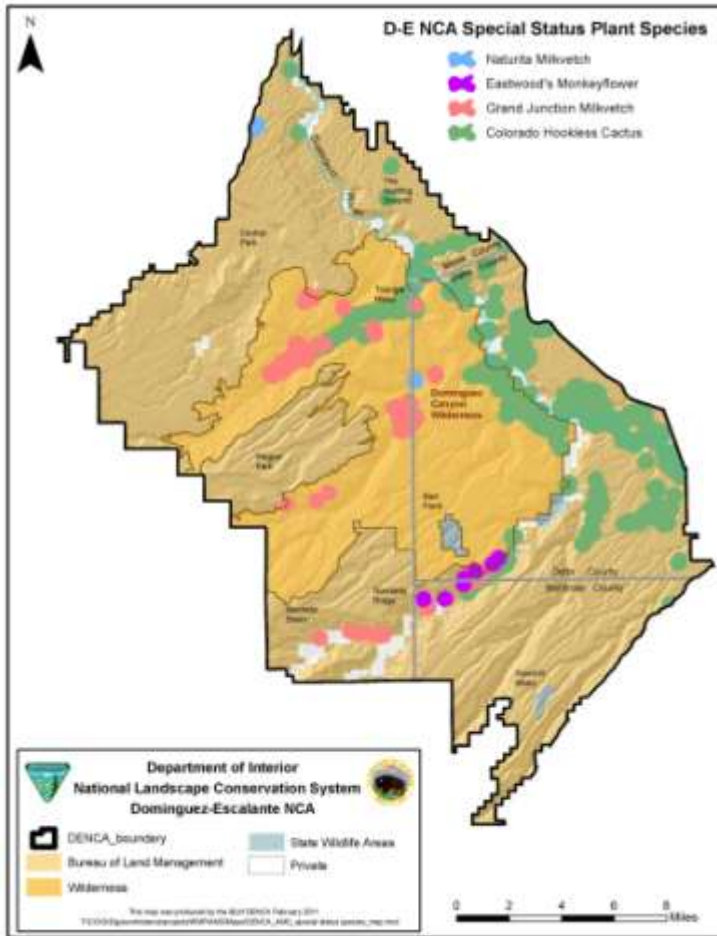
Vegetation not meeting standards



- The vegetation is predominately desert shrub/saltbush, which occupies 21 percent of the NCA. This vegetative community consists of:
 - Drought-resistant shrubs like shadscale, saltbush, winterfat, snakeweed and prickly pear cactus
 - Grasses include western wheatgrass, galleta grass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian ricegrass
 - A wide variety of forbs
 - Areas not meeting Land Health Standards, and is in **fair** or **poor** condition for many indicators. These problems are largely a result of a combination of some or all of the following factors:

- Proximity of this vegetative community to Highway 50, Whitewater, Delta and utility corridors, which cause disturbance to the area
- Historic sheep **grazing corridor** between the Gunnison River and Highway 50
- Loss of native grasses and perennial forbs
- Infestation with **cheatgrass** and **halogeton**, which are noxious and/or invasive and can prevent the re-establishment of native plants and lead to significant soil problems.
- Vulnerability of the soils and vegetation to prolonged drought and disturbance.

Colorado hookless cactus



Listed as a **threatened** species under the Endangered Species Act

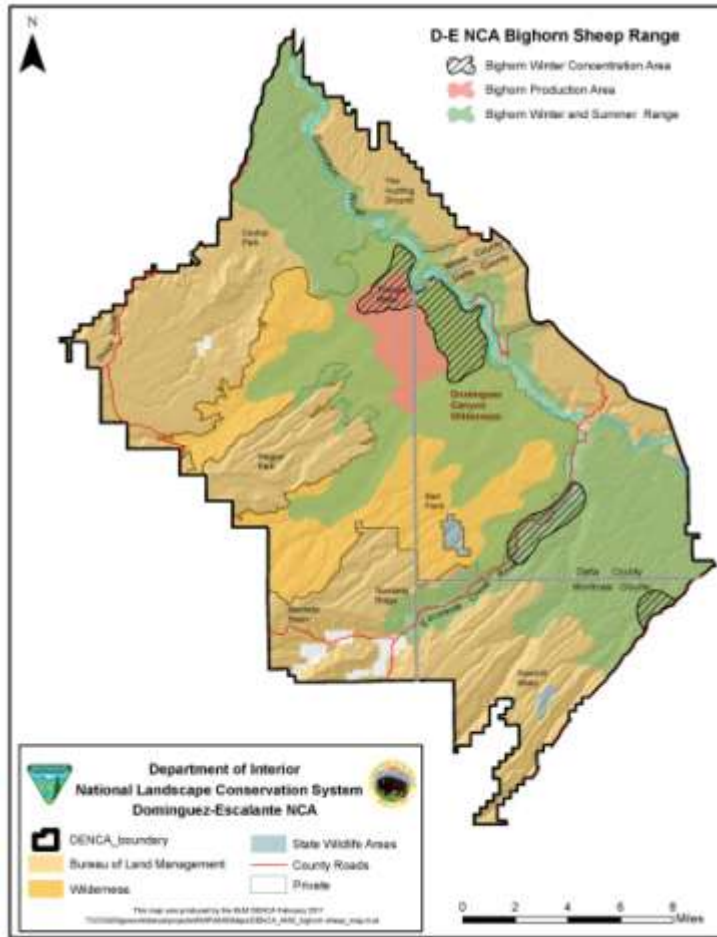
Colorado hookless cactus has a strong presence throughout Zone 1.

Habitat includes rocky hills, mesa slopes, and alluvial benches in desert shrub communities

Elevations from 4,500 to 6,000 feet.

Occurs primarily in the Gunnison River valley, with many near Delta.

Wildlife



BLM sensitive wildlife species with potential to occupy this zone (**C** = confirmed within past 10 years, P = not documented but suitable habitat exists):

desert bighorn sheep (C)

white-tailed prairie dogs (C)

burrowing owls (P)

kit fox (P)

pronghorn (C)

ferruginous hawk (P)

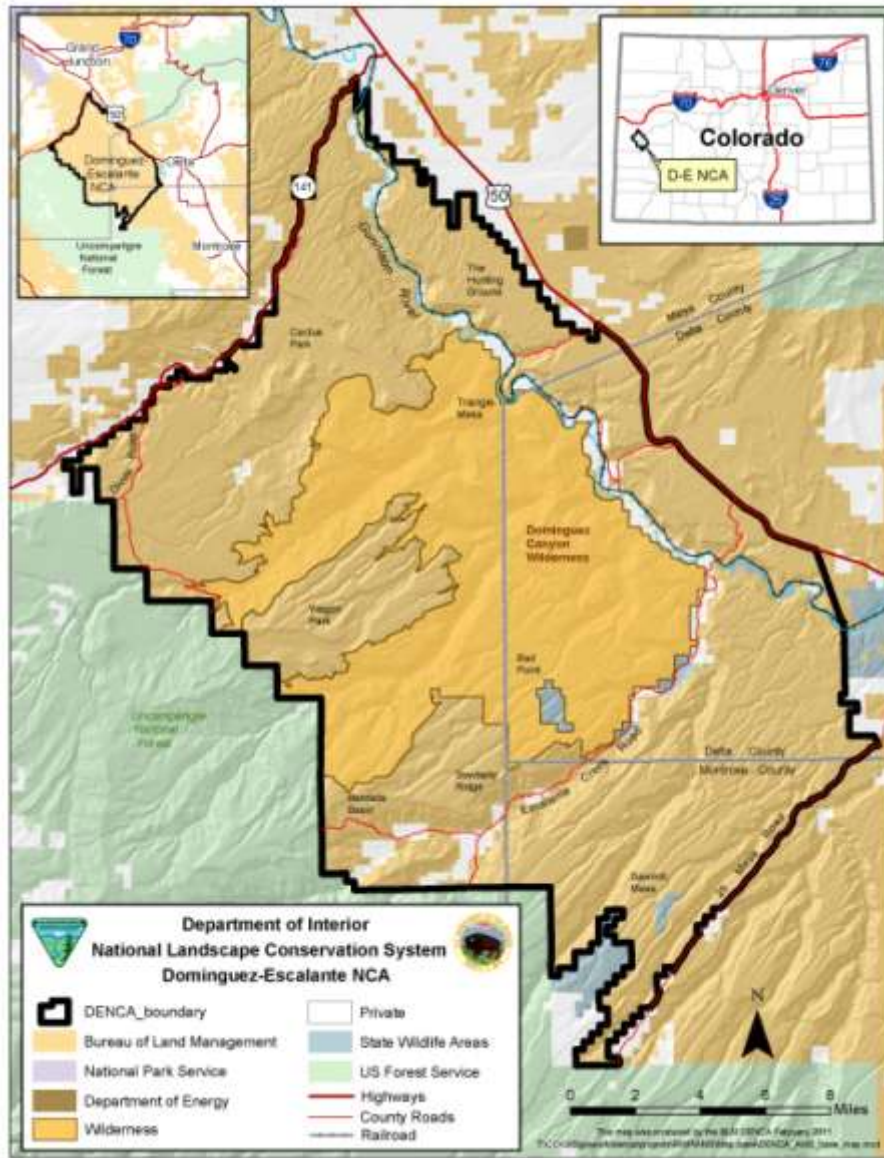
long-nosed leopard lizards (P)

midget-faded rattlesnakes (P)

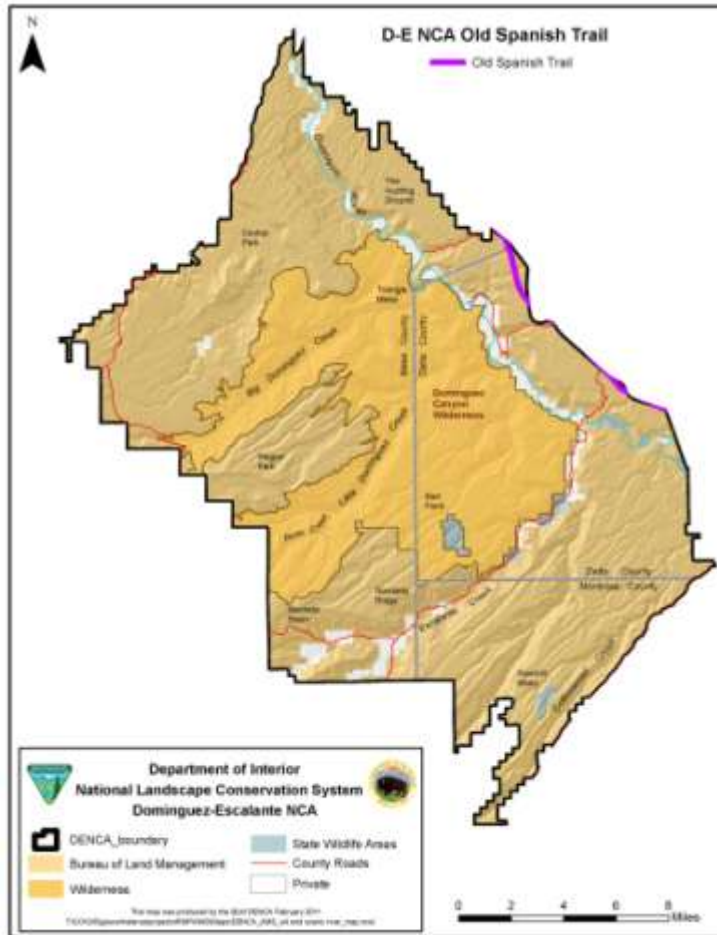
northern leopard frog (C)

Lay of the Land

This area was once used extensively by game animals moving down from the Grand Mesa to the river, which were followed by Native Americans. A trade route trail was established by the Utes through this zone, which was later adopted by Spanish explorers and re-named the **Old Spanish Trail**.



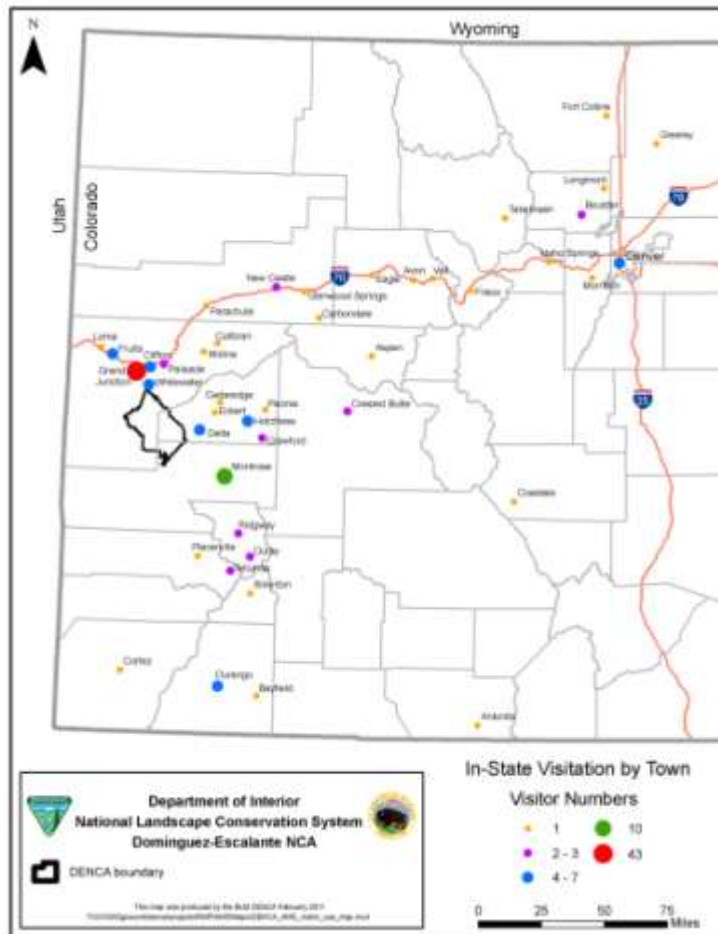
Old Spanish Trail and more,...



Archeologists note:

- prehistoric camp sites and hunting blinds
- rock art sites
- lithic sites, where arrows, spearheads and other tools were crafted.
- Ease of access in this zone has led to theft and vandalism of cultural sites.
- Opportunities for cultural resource-related recreation/tourism
- Heritage Tourism associated with the Old Spanish Trail
- Landscape-type interpretation, showing the broad sweep of game and trade trails that intersected above and alongside the Gunnison River.

Recreation



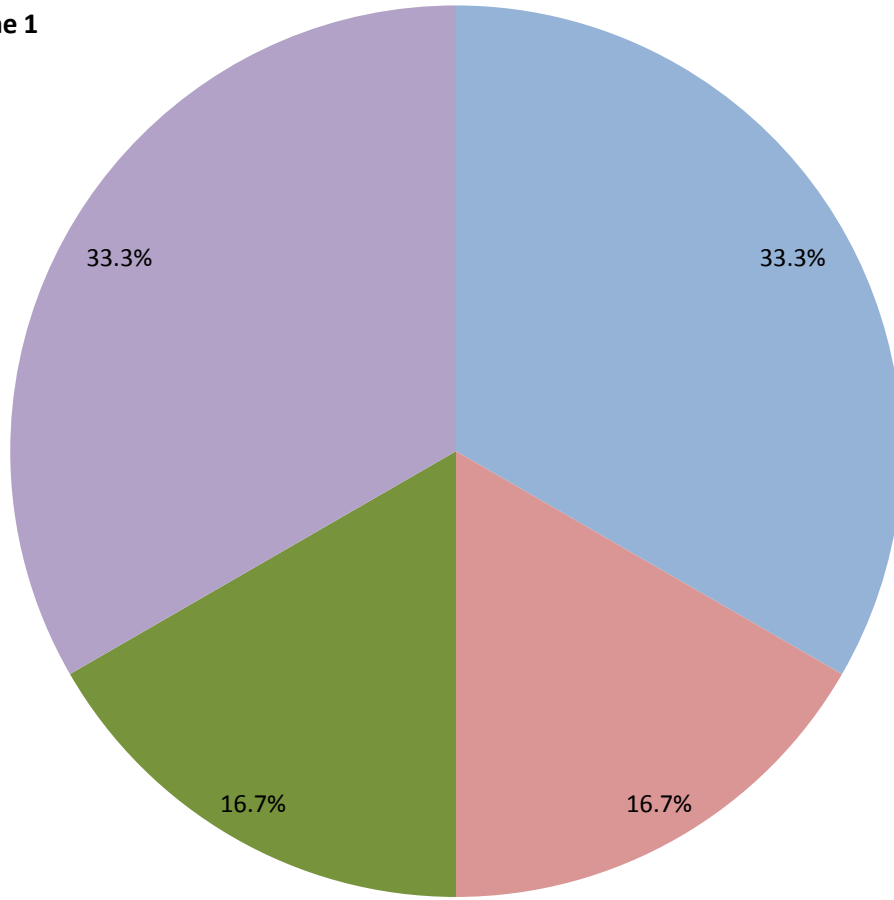
Zone 1 has not (so far) been the site of active management for recreation, and very few recreation developments are found there. The setting for this zone is classified as a mix of back country and middle country. The BLM has very little information about the number of visitors to this zone.

Current recreational activities in Zone 1 include hiking, horseback riding, ATV and motorcycle riding, trials motorcycle riding, mountain biking, target shooting, dispersed camping, and wildlife viewing.

Mesa State's survey identified hiking and horseback riding as the most satisfying activities in this zone.

Quiet Contemplative and Close to Nature niche bundles

Zone 1



Close to Nature

Health & Well Being

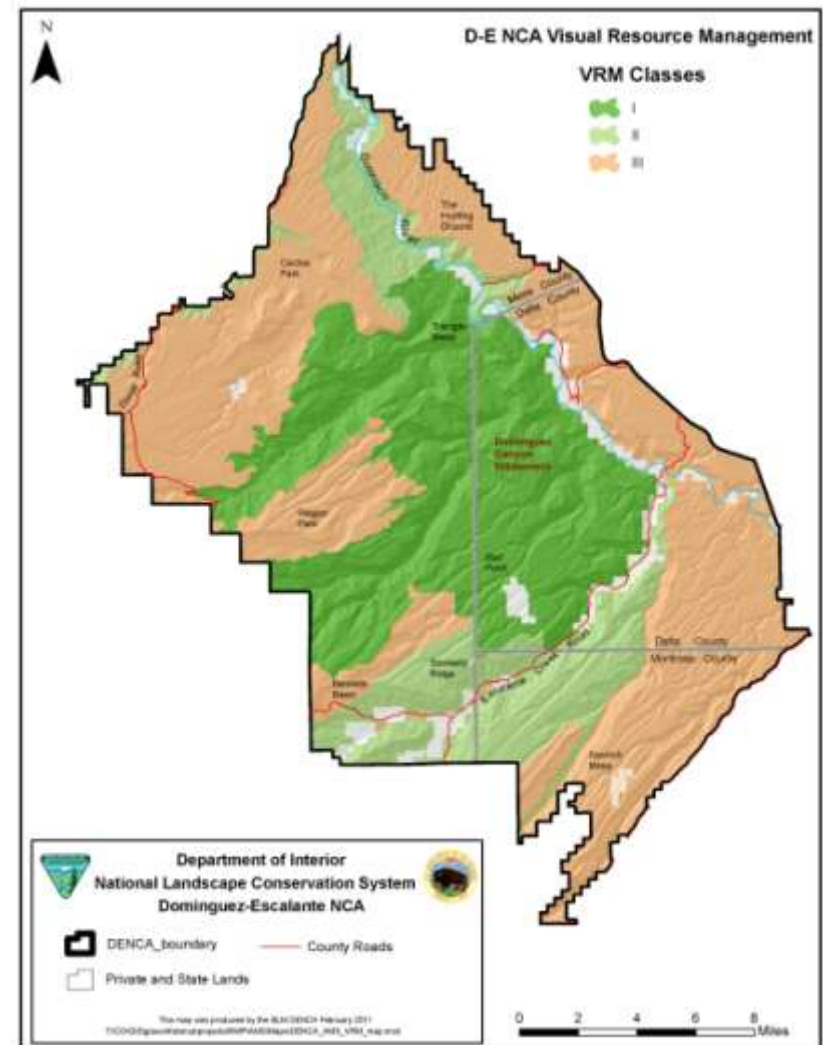
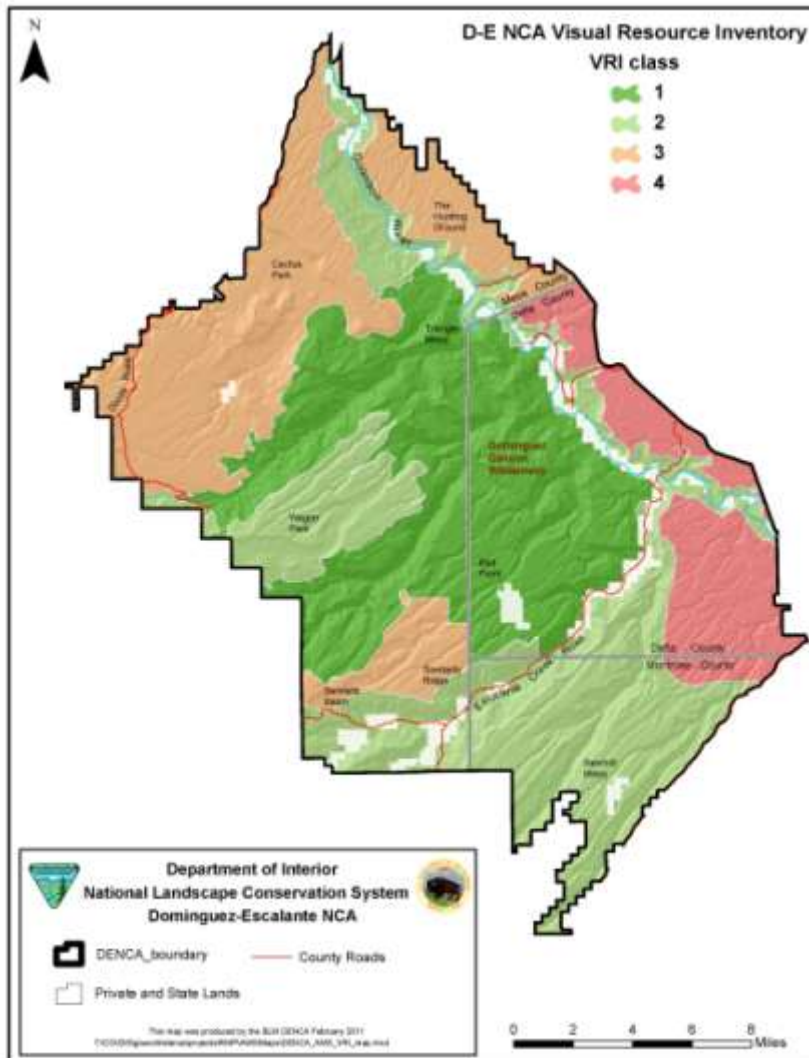
Heritage Appreciation

Quiet Contemplative

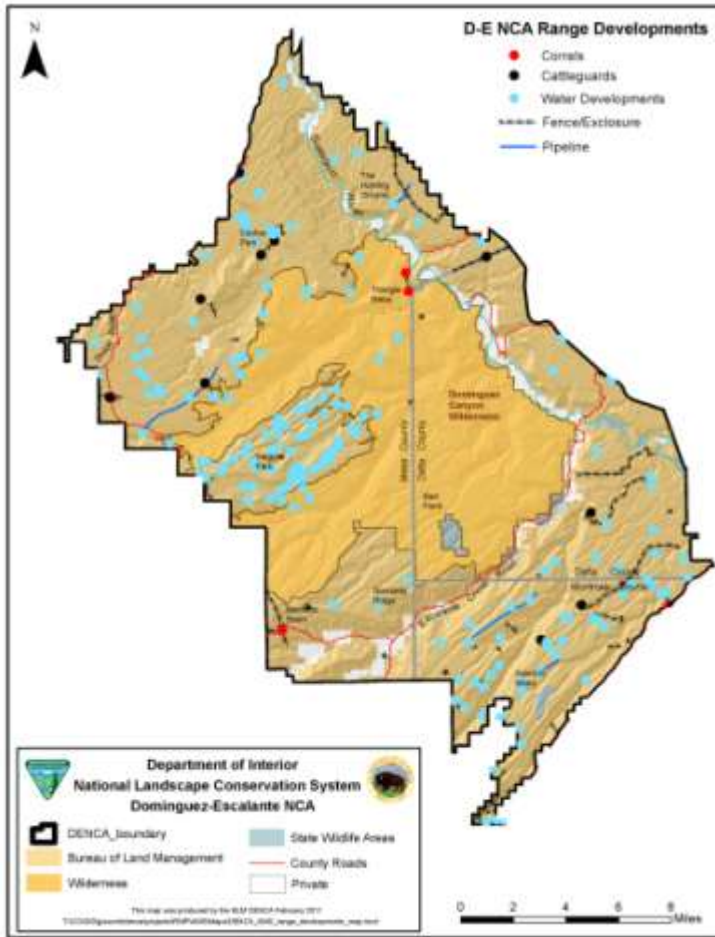
Survey shows most interest in

- Trails
- Community Connection Trail
- Multiple-use of resources
- Rights of private property owners
- Scenic views
- Grazing
- Protection of archeological sites
- Wildlife
- Target shooting and
- Railroad

Scenic Resources

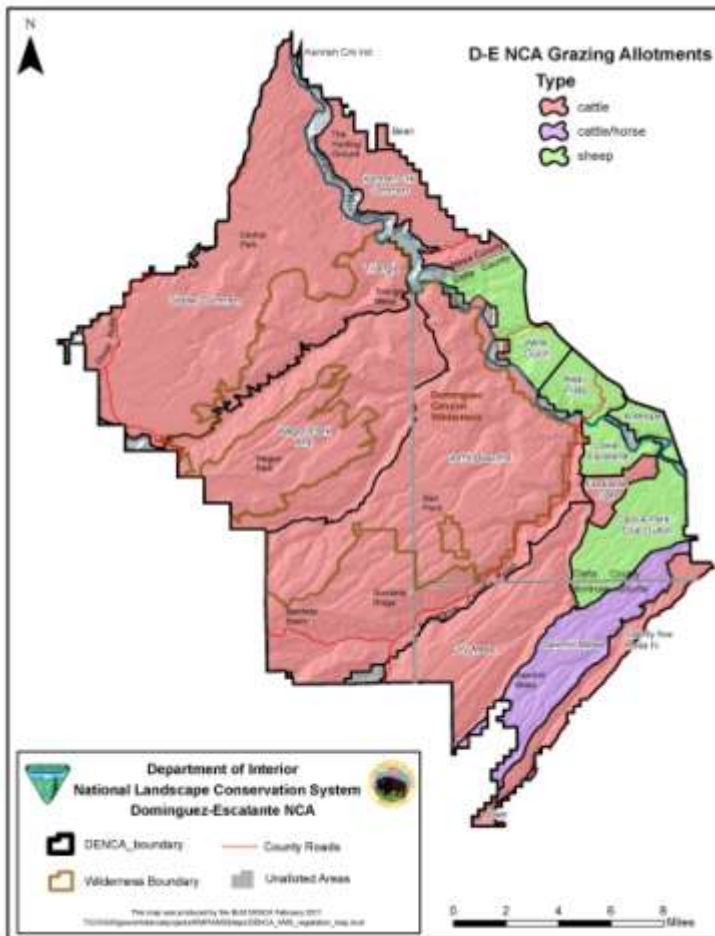


Range Development



Zone 1 has been developed for livestock grazing, with 11 water developments (i.e. stock ponds, pipelines or catchments), 5 fence lines or exclosures and 2 cattle guards currently in the BLM's Range Improvement Projects database.

Grazing Allotments



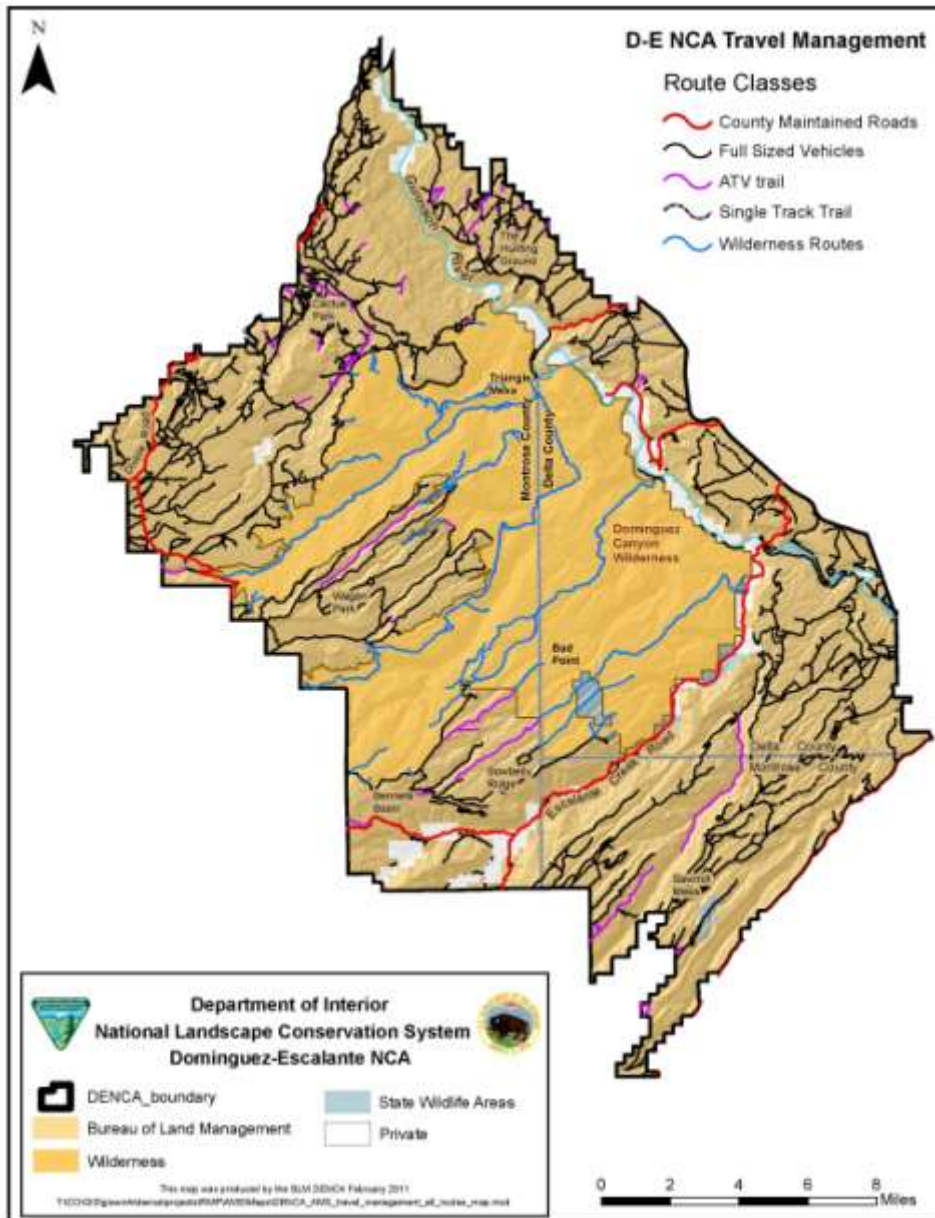
The three allotments on the Mesa County side of Zone 1 are permitted for **cattle**, while the three allotments on the Delta County side of Zone 1 are permitted for **sheep**.

Cattle allotments are typically grazed in the fall and spring, while sheep allotments are grazed in the winter-early spring.

Cattle grazing allotments: Bean, Kannah Creek Individual and Kannah Creek Commons.

Sheep grazing allotments: Wells Gulch, Alkali Flats and Antelope

Travel Management, Zone 1

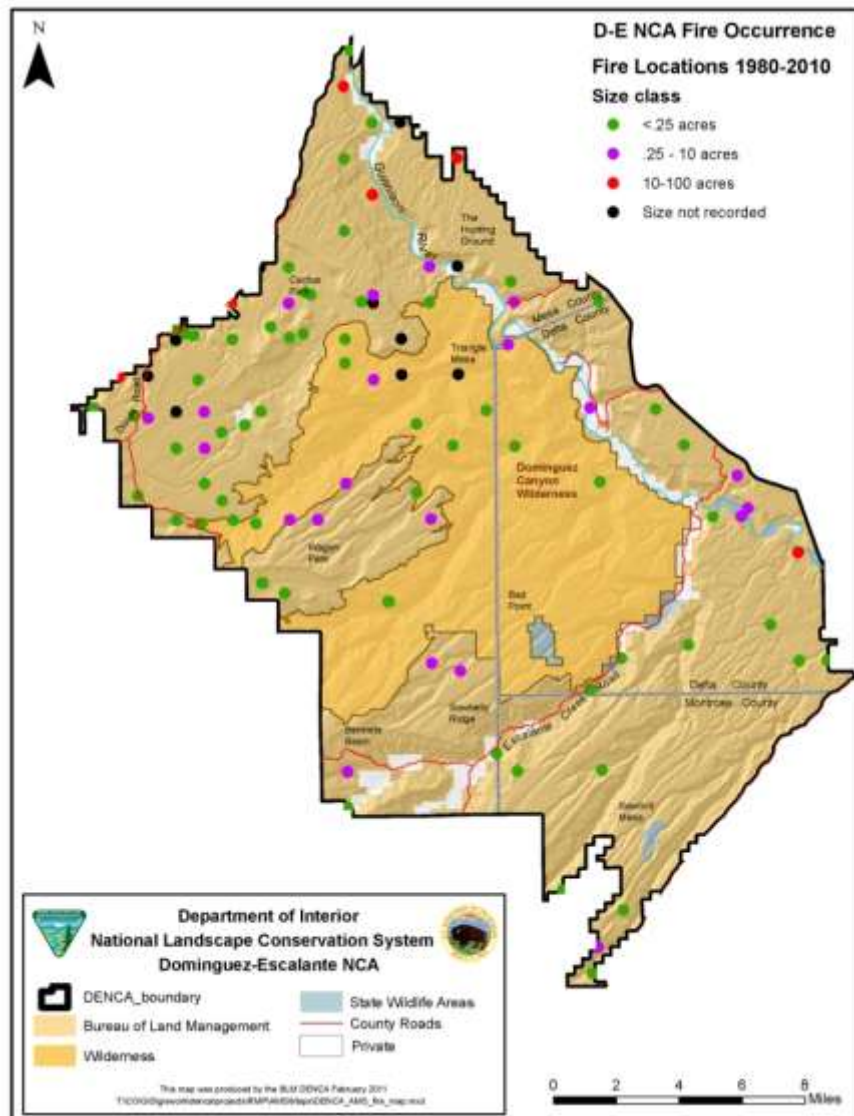


- All the routes, except for maintained county roads, were created to provide access for livestock grazing or were user-created.
- Area has been designated “Limited to Existing” for motorized vehicles -- limited to existing roads and trails, with no seasonal limits.
- No “open” areas, where cross-country travel is allowed.
- Popular access routes include Bean Ranch Road, Bridgeport Road and Escalante Canyon Road.

Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement officers from GJFO and UFO contributed to the following data, from 2007 to August of 2010:
-
- Drug violations: 11
- Liquor Law violations: 5
- Dumping incidents: 6
- Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) violations: 2
- Camping violations: 1
- OHV: 3
- Theft of government property: 1
- Compliance checks: 6
- Wildlife violation: 2
- Fatality: 1
- Assist to other agencies: 2
- Arrests: 3

Fire history for Zone 1



D-E NCA Land health Assessment

Overall Assessment

- meeting
- meeting with problems
- not meeting
- not completed

Department of Interior
National Landscape Conservation System
Dominguez-Escalante NCA

DENCA_boundary County Roads
 Wilderness Boundary Private and State Lands

This map was produced by the RLAI DENCA February 2011
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0 2 4 6 8 Miles

Recreation Settings

